Utilisation of Unintended Benefit

1596. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3174 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th December, 1987 and state:

(a) what is the purpose for which the amount recovered from drug companies due to overcharging the poor consumer can be spent according to DPCO, 1979 and 1987;

(b) what are the purposes for which the amount collected has actually been spent; and

(c) what is the amount so far spent against the purposes stipulated and the authority under which it has been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The purposes for which the amount recovered from drug companies under the provisions of DPCO, 1979 can be spent are contained in Paragraph 17 of DPCO, 1979 and Paragraph 14 of DPCO, 1987 which were laid on the Table of the House. The total amount distributed till date from the Drug Prices Equilisation Accounts is Rs. 1792.56 lakhs.

Production of two-wheelers manufactured by Scooters India Ltd.

1597. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the shortfall in the production of two-wheelers manufactured by Scooters India Ltd.;

(b) what are the other items being produced by SIL at present; and

(c) what is the profit/loss account of Scooters India Ltd. during the last two years; and the steps being taken by Government to reduce the losses?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The main reasons for the short fall in production of two wheelers manufactured by Scooters India Ltd. are:—

(i) Consumer preference for other makes of Scooters.

(ii) Old plant and machinery and inadequate technical support.

(b) The unit in Lucknow manufactures two and three wheelers. A unit in Delhi manufacturers electric fans.

(c) YEAR	LOSS (Rs. in lakhs)
1986-87	2335
1987-88	2760

As Scooters India Ltd. has been incurring losses since inception, the Government have deicded to transfer the agreed assets and equivalent liabilities of the Scooters India Limited's Lucknow unit for the manufacture of two wheelers and three wheelers to a leading two-wheeler manufacturer.

Policy on foreign collaboration for non-priority items

1598. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy regarding foreign collaborations for non-priority items; and

(b) whether export commitment makes a non-priority item into a priority item?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) Government has laid down the Foreign Collaboration guidelines which are based on national priorities. Import of technical know-how is permitted in sophisticated and high priority areas, n export oriented or import substitution manufacturing or for enabling indigenous industry to update existing technology in India

to meet efficiently domestic requirements and/or to become competitive in the export market.

Oil structure in Mizoram

1599. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil has been struck in Mizoram during the last few months; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Memorandum submitted by Consumer Associations seeking changes in MRTP Regulations pertaining of the Procedure of Inquiries

1600. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumer associations recognised under the MRTP Act have presented a memorandum to the MRTP Commission seeking changes in MRTP regulations to make the procedure of inquiries conducive to giving a full hearing to consumers and their associations;

(b) what are the broad details of each of the amendments suggested in the memorandum and the response of Government thereto; and

(c) whether any of the suggestions require any amendment of the Act itself or the rules framed thereunder; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The MRTP Commission has received a memorandum from a consumers' association seeking changes in and simplification of the MRTP Commission Regulations, 1974. Some of the main points made in the memorandum are locus-standi of the consumer/consumers' association as the complainant, rights of the complainant and his greater role in enquiry proceedings, multiplicity of proceedings, need for summary procedure for small claims, rigid application of CPC Rules, widening of the definition of 'authorised representative', need for regulating adjournments etc.

The memorandum is under consideration of the Commission.

Recovery of overcharged amounts from Drug Companies

1601. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1391 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 1988 and state:

(a) what are the reasons for the recovery of only Rs. 50 lakhs against the total amount which has been worked out around Rs. 10 crores being overcharged by 8 companies;

(b) what efforts have been made by his Ministry during the last two years to recover the balance amount;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in recovering the amount;

(d) whether there is any proposal to transfer the work of recovery to the Ministry of Finance; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) No amount [except Rs. 50 lakhs paid by M/s. Fulford (India) Ltd. as directed by the court] has so far been received as the parties have disputed the amount.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.